

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A method for manufacturing a polarizing film, the method comprising the steps of:

dyeing a polyvinyl alcohol polymer film;

stretching the dyed film with a wet stretching method; and

drying the film that has undergone the dyeing and stretching steps while conveying the film with rolls,

wherein, in the drying step, at least two rolls are used as the rolls and the film is dried under a condition that a ratio (R/W) of a distance (R) between the adjacent rolls to an initial width (W) of the polymer film is not less than 1.0 $[[0.5]]$ and not more than 4.0.

2. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein, in the drying step, three or more rolls are used as the rolls, and said condition is satisfied where the distance (R) denotes a distance between at least one pair of the adjacent rolls selected from the three or more rolls.

3. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein, in the drying step, at least 50% of the film is dried under said condition.

4. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein, in the drying step, the film is conveyed with a tensile force being applied to the film.

5. (Withdrawn): A polarizing film obtained by the method according to claim 1.

6. (Withdrawn): The polarizing film according to claim 5, wherein a polarization degree is at least 99.90%.

7. (Withdrawn): An optical film comprising the polarizing film according to claim 5 and at least one optical layer laminated on the polarizing film.

8. (Withdrawn): An image display apparatus comprising the polarizing film according to claim 5 or the optical film according to claim 7.

9. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein, in the drying step, the film is conveyed with a tensile force of that causes the film to be stretched about 1.0 to 1.3 times.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein the R/W ratio is not less than 1.0 and not more than 3.8.

13. (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein method manufactures a polarizing film having a standard deviation of less than 0.06 in the width direction.